

## Message Text

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ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02

INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 AID-05 EB-07 COME-00 AGR-05 PC-01 /081 W

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R 280816Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3839

INFO AMCONSUL ASMARA

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USCINCEUR

CINCUSNAVERU

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE ADDIS ABABA 3615

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT ET

SUBJECT: PMAC ANNOUNCEMENT ASKING

FARMERS TO BEGIN TILLING THEIR LAND SO AS NOT TO WASTE PLANTING SEASON. IT NOTED THAT SOME "REACTIONARIES AND DISSIDENTS" ARE ATTEMPTING TO PREVENT FARMERS FROM PLOWING AND PLANTING, USING THE FALSE PRETEXT THAT ALTHOUGH FARMERS HAVE BEEN GIVEN LAND, THEY DO NOT YET HAVE RIGHT TO TILL IT. IN SPITE OF INDIVIDUALS WHO GO FROM VILLAGE TO VILLAGE SPREADING FALSE RUMORS AND MISINTERPRETING LAND REFORM PROCLAMATION, STATEMENT NOTED THAT FARMERS ASSOCIATIONS SHOULD BE FORMED PROMPTLY AND THAT FARMERS SHOULD BEGIN PLANTING THESE LANDS WITHOUT DELAY LEST MISUNDERSTANDING AND HUNGER ENSUE.

2. ETHIOPIAN NEWSPAPERS OF MARCH 23 AND 24 CARRIED A PMAC ANNOUNCEMENT ADVISING OWNERS OF LARGE TRUCKS OF FARM LAND TO BE ON HAND AT THEIR FARMS UP TO MARCH 29 TO HAND OVER MOVEABLE AND LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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INMOVEABLE PROPERTIES TO GOVERNMENT DESIGNATED AGENCIES. THE

ANNOUNCEMENT WARNED THAT NECESSARY ACTIONS WILL BE TAKEN AGAINST THOSE WHO FAIL TO OBSERVE THE DEADLINE. THE ANNOUNCEMENT REITERATED THAT ADEQUATE COMPENSATION WILL BE GIVEN FOR MOVEABLE AND INMOVEABLE PROPERTIES ON LARGE FARMS.

3. A RELIABLE SOURCE REPORTS THAT NEWLY-NAMED MANAGERS OF PUBLIC ENTERPRISES, INCLUDING NEWLY-NATIONALIZED FARMS (SEPARATE AIRGRAM) WERE WARNED BY PMAC REPS THAT ETHIOPIA FACES POTENTIAL FOOD SHORTAGES. APPOINTEES, MANY OF WHOM HAVE EXPERIENCE IN MANAGING PRIVATE FARMS, WERE URGED TO APPLY THEIR EXPERTISE TO HELP AVERT THESE OR SUFFER THE CONSEQUENCES.

COMMENT: WE READ ABOVE AS INDICATION GROWING "DIRG" CONCERN OVER POTENTIAL SHORTFALL IN FOOD PRODUCTION IF LAND REFORM AND NATIONALIZATION PROCLAMATION LEADS TO "WASTAGE" OF PRESENT PLANTING SEASON. WE SHALL FOLLOW PLANTING EFFORT AS SEASON ADVANCES BUT EXPECT THAT SEVERAL WEEKS WILL HAVE TO PASS BEFORE WE CAN PROVIDE A MEANINGFUL ASSESSMENT.

HUMMEL

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## Message Attributes

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**TAGS:** PINS, ET

**To:** STATE

**Type:** TE

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